

5                   **SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USING  
LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY (LNP) TO REDIRECT  
TERMINATING CALLS TO A SERVICE NODE**

**Abstract of the Invention**

                  A system and method are provided for using Local Number  
10   Portability (LNP) and the public switched telephone network (PSTN)  
trunks as virtual loop-around trunks. Present invention LNP structures  
and processes redirect calls to avoid the creation of loop-around trunks  
from calls generated in the local exchange carrier (LEC) requiring services  
such as prepaid caller and calling party pays. A virtual trunk switch is  
15   created using a Switch Control Point (SCP). Telephone numbers  
requiring special services are ported and stored in a LNP database.  
Numbers requiring special services are flagged with a LRN that identifies  
a special service switch which is either an SSP or an SCP. The LRN  
initiates communication between the local exchange switch and the  
20   special service switch. Once engaged, the special service switch protocols  
create the trunk links. By monitoring these trunk links, the special  
service switch is able to monitor the in-band communications, and so  
provide the special services. Similar processes are provided using the  
LNP to insert either a Service Switching Point (SSP) or an Intelligent  
25   Peripheral (IP) in the network trunk to provide services with a fewer  
number of switch connections.